



**2001 State Legislative Plan
City and County of San Francisco**

DOCUMENTS DEPT.

MAY 15 2001

SAN FRANCISCO
PUBLIC LIBRARY

State Legislation Committee
City Hall, Room 288
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-6114

D

REF
352.143
Sa525s
2001

5/5



San Francisco Public Library

Government Information Center
San Francisco Public Library
100 Larkin Street, 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

REFERENCE BOOK

Not to be taken from the Library

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
General Legislative Goals	1
Summary of Legislative Priorities for 2001	2
I. Adult Probation Department	2
II. Airport	2
III. Arts Commission	2
IV. City Attorney	3
V. Commission on Aging	4
VI. Department on the Environment	5
VII. Film and Video Commission	6
VIII. Fire Department	6
IX. Department of Public Health	7
X. Department of Human Services	8
XI. Juvenile Probation Department	8
XII. Public Library	8
XIII. Mayor's Office	10
XIV. Municipal Railway	12
XV. Department of Parking and Traffic	12
XVI. Planning Department	13
XVII. Police Department	13
XVIII. Port	13
XIX. Public Utilities Commission	14
XX. Department of Recreation and Parks	15
XXI. Redevelopment Agency	15
XXII. Superior and Municipal Courts	15
XXIII. Transportation	16

ADDENDUM 1

Department of Public Health 2001 State Legislative Plan A-1

ADDENDUM 2

Department of Human Services 2001 State Legislative Plan A-2



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2013

<http://archive.org/details/statelegislative2001sanf>

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

WILLIE L. BROWN, JR.
MAYOR

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

City Hall, Room 288
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 554-6299
(415) 554-6158 FAX



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TOM AMMIANO
PRESIDENT

In Sacramento

1127 11th Street, #1030
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916) 443-6400
(916) 443-6445 FAX

State Legislative Plan
City and County of San Francisco
FY 2000 – 2001

Preliminary Note

In general, individual pieces of legislation will be brought to the State Legislation Committee before a formal City position is adopted. However, the City's Lobbyists will rely on the goals described herein where there is insufficient time to seek a position adopted by the State Legislation Committee or by the Board of Supervisors.

General Legislative Goals

The City's primary and overriding goal is to preserve and seek to enhance existing revenues. This involves:

- Advocacy to prevent Statewide reductions in intergovernmental revenues, such as property tax, sales tax or realignment revenues. Also, advocacy to promote savings or City expenditures through more efficiencies in City operations. Such advocacy involved coordination among groups such as the California League of Cities or California State Association of Counties.
- Advocacy to prevent adverse and to promote beneficial legislative or administrative changes that would affect San Francisco in particular. Such efforts involve working with individual Legislators or Administration officials, on issues such as allocation formulas, or targeted legislative or regulatory language.
- Advocacy to assist in the favorable approval of San Francisco's grant requests to the State.
- Advocacy to include San Francisco projects in State bond proposals.
- Work to provide up-to-date and accurate information on State programs so that San Francisco officials can accurately develop the City's budget and programs.
- Work to ensure coordination and crafting of Federal directives to the State with subsequent State implementation focused on favorable outcomes for San Francisco.
- Advocacy to ensure that State funding for mandated services such as trial courts meets legislative intent.
- Advocacy to preclude establishment or furtherance of existing State-designated special funds when accounting burdens are excessive and county flexibility is limited.
- Advocacy to prevent change in regulations and/or fees that affect the ability of San Francisco to retain and expand businesses that provide employment and spinoff revenues to the City; advocacy for programs that stimulate investment opportunities by businesses and equipment, new technologies and job development.
- Advocacy for programmatic or policy changes that will lead to new funding programs (i.e., grants, loans, or tax exemptions) for development of capital projects by public agencies.
- Advocacy to prevent laws or proposed Constitutional amendments that would preempt programs established by local ordinances or the San Francisco Charter. These might include legislation aimed at elimination of the City policies to promote contracting with minority- or women-owned businesses or other "affirmative action" programs.

Summary of Legislative Priorities – City Departments

City Departments have established legislative priorities for the 2000-2001 session. This section summarizes the priorities based on a department's legislative plan or policies.

I. ADULT PROBATION DEPARTMENT

Statewide Legislative Program of the Chief Probation Officers

Background: The Chief Probation Officers' legislative program includes a variety of legislative items. The items most relevant to San Francisco include:

- Establish a Juvenile Mentally Ill Offender Reduction Grant program;
- Pursue continued funding of the Juvenile Justice Prevention Programs established by AB1913(Cardenas/Schiff);
- Pursue state funding for juvenile facilities construction and rehabilitation;
- Pursue additional funding for the implementation of Proposition 36.

Potential Impact: Several of these proposals could increase revenues or improve efficiency in San Francisco.

Status: Support efforts to clarify language; earmark funding sources; and improve both juvenile and adult probation programs.

II. AIRPORT

Monitor Legislation Regarding the Airport

Background: In 1992, the City adopted the Airport's comprehensive Master Plan, after various public hearings and discussions of the many issues associated with expansion of the Airport. The City plans to continue to implement the expansion plans consistent with the formally adopted Master Plan, and to oppose legislation that could hinder this effort.

Potential Impact: The effective operation of the Airport and implementation of its master plan are directly tied to the City's economic development activities and thus could affect the City's fiscal resources.

Status: Oppose legislation that will be adverse to San Francisco International Airport.

III. ARTS COMMISSION

Preservation and expansion of Community Arts Programs

Background: In past years, funding for the California Arts Council has been vulnerable to reduction or elimination. The Council has traditionally enabled a diversity of small and mid-sized nonprofit organizations to present innovative and meaningful exhibitions, performances, classes, and other opportunities to people who might otherwise have little or no access to the arts. An increase in funding for the California Arts Council would be consistent with the City of San Francisco's policy of providing Hotel Tax Fund grants for community arts programs, and the Arts Commission mission of integrating arts into city daily life through programs for people of all ages, backgrounds and economic circumstances.

Potential Impact: A funding increase would help the city continue its economic development and cultural tourism efforts, as well as arts programming for people throughout its communities.

Status: Support an increase in funding for the California Arts Council and increases in State funding for community arts programs generally.

IV. CITY ATTORNEY

1) Monitor legislation affecting litigation

Background: The City and County will have two lawsuits pending against large private interests.

- Old Republic Title Company -- San Francisco charges Old Republic and four of its top executives with fraud against California homebuyers and the state, including setting up a shell corporation to illegally collect escrow account interest payments which should have been paid to homebuyers.
- Gun Manufactures -- San Francisco will join other California cities in suing the gun industry to recover costs wrought by gun violence.

The City also has lawsuits regarding other matters, such as private property takings, nuisance abatement, juvenile dependency, public works contracting and local tax issues.

Potential Impact: Legislation could be introduced that would affect these lawsuits.

Status: Monitor, work to prevent and oppose legislation that is adverse to litigation filed by or against the City and County.

2) Gun Legislation

Background: State legislators have indicated that a number of gun control proposals will be introduced relating to gun licensing, and further regulation of gun shows and manufacturers. This legislation may do the following:

- Require handgun licensing.
- Repeal Civil Code Section 1714.4 (prohibits deeming a firearm defective in a product liability action on the basis that the benefits do not outweigh the potential risk of injury).
- Require load indicators and magazine disconnects on handguns.
- Require gun fingerprinting.

Status: Support legislation that complements the City's efforts to control gun violence.

3) Telecommunications

Background: Corporate mergers of telephone and cable providers and new technologies in the field of telecommunications create legal and policy issues that could be directed by the Legislature.

Potential Impact: Policies and mandates could be established that result in disadvantage and cost for the City and of great advantage and financial benefit for corporations.

Status: Monitor legislative issues that would affect or regulate cable and other telecommunications services, including the Internet and telephony.

4) Energy

Background and Potential Impact:

As California continues restructuring the electric and gas industries, there are several issues likely to be before the Legislature that may affect the City's energy interests:

- Divestiture of PG&E Hydroelectric Plants -- Any legislation should ensure maximum public benefit from disposition of the plants, in term of costs, environmental protection, reliability of electric supply, market development and rates.
- Reliability -- The City is actively advocating for improvements in the reliability of electric supply in this area. Legislation addressing how new transmission and distribution facilities are built and paid for could substantially affect the City's interests.
- Reorganization of Regulatory Structure -- Any legislation should provide for consumer protection, enforcement of reliability standards, environmental review, monopoly rate and service regulation, and a public process for addressing problems.
- Energy Powerplant and Transmission Line Siting -- Any legislation should preserve local land use authority and provide for appropriate review of siting proposals.
- Distributed Generation -- There has been much progress in the development of small electric production facilities that are distributed throughout a community as an alternative to large power plants. The use of such technology may assist the City in improving its electric reliability. Legislation addressing the siting, ownership, and costs of using distributed generation could impact the City's ability to use this technology.

Status: Monitor, support or oppose legislation that affects the consumer interest of the City and County and its residents and legislation affecting the City as a power producer.

V. COMMISSION ON AGING

The general legislative priorities for the Commission on Aging are as follows: The Older Americans Act/Older Californians Act, Medicare, Medi-Cal, In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS), Social Security, Prescription Drug Benefits, Family Caregiver Support, Senior Housing, Senior Center Capital Funding, Older Adult Abuse, Community-based Health Care Facilities, and the California Senior Legislature.

Legislative priorities with state implications are listed below:

1) Increased Funding for Older Americans Act/Older Californians Act

Background: Monitor funding levels for programs and services mandated by the Older Americans Act (OAA) and the Older Californians Act (OCA). Support increases in funding with specific emphasis in the OAA for senior centers, nutrition programs, and caregiver support and for MSSP, Linkages, Brown Bag, Foster Grandparents, Senior Companions ADCRC and HICAP Programs mandated by the OCA.

Status: Support increases in funding for Older Americans/Older Californians Act.

2) Medicare, Medi-Cal, IHSS and Social Security

Background: Many seniors are unable to cover their share-of-cost for medical and IHSS services. Increase both state and federal entitlement funding for Medicare, Medi-Cal, IHSS and Social Security, specifically:

- Increase in the eligibility limits or waivers for income and assets.
- Increased Medicare benefit coverage for mental health care.
- Adjustments in Social Security survivor benefits to allow survivors to keep a larger fraction of the couple's benefit.

Status: Support increased funding for state entitlement programs for seniors.

3) Family Caregiver Support through Long-Term Care Initiatives

Background: Neither private medical insurance nor Medicare covers long-term care. People in need of long-term care will face financial disaster. Care requirements for persons with Alzheimer's disease are among the most challenging and complex. The average cost of care in a nursing home for a person with Alzheimer's disease is three and a half times more costly than caring for that person at home (\$47,000 vs. \$12,500).

- Support of a Long-term Care Options Program to provide information and assessment to assist functionally impaired adults in making long-term care decisions.
- Expand home and community-based service options to include resources for quality dementia care.
- Expand the availability of respite care, day services, MSSP/Linkages, transportation and other essential community-based support services.
- Explore options for Medicaid waivers to fund assisted living care.
- Requirement of the Department of Insurance to approve any rate changes for long-term care insurance with provisions regarding non-cancelable policies and renewability.
- Alzheimer's training and educational requirements for caregivers in skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities.

Status: Support efforts to improve long-term care options.

4) Senior Housing Programs

Background: Support legislation that increases the availability of senior housing, specifically:

- Increase the number of senior housing units (HUD).
- Pursue subsidies for repairs necessary for the health and safety of senior residents (HUD).
- Provide funding for moving expenses incurred as a result of eviction or unsafe housing (State).
- Pursue housing modifications to accommodate physical disabilities or to ensure safety (HUD).
- Pursue a set aside for Senior Housing on decommissioned military bases (State).
- Pursue changes in the City's zoning regulations to permit flexibility for building new housing for seniors.

Status: Support efforts to increase affordable housing for seniors.

5) Older Adult Abuse

Background: Support efforts to regulate and penalize individuals or institutions that perpetrate any form of abuse against older individuals including but not limited to physical, financial or functional limitations that may be imposed by age.

Status: Monitor and advocate for legislation preventing older adult abuse.

VI. ENVIRONMENT

1) Pesticides

Monitor legislation relating to responsible pesticide use, including reduced uses, labeling public right-to-know, disclosure of inert ingredients.

2) Sustainable/Green Buildings

Support legislation relating to sustainable and green buildings.

3) Solid Waste Management

Support legislation relating to landfill diversion and recycling bottles/soft drink containers.

4) Toxic Reduction and Bay Quality

Support legislation on mercury elimination (thermometer exchange) and dioxin reduction.

5) Natural Resource Management

Monitor legislation relating to coastal erosion, contaminant remediation, wetlands restoration, brownfields, and urban forestry.

6) Air Quality

Monitor legislation relating to power plant emission reduction and alternative fuels.

7) Energy Efficiency and Renewables

Monitor legislation relating to energy conservation, energy efficiency incentives, solar, wind and other renewable power generation

VII. FILM AND VIDEO COMMISSION

Economic Development Proposals

Background: In the past, both the Governor and the Legislature have proposed measures designed to expand economic development opportunities in the State. Some of these have pertained directly to film and video production, involving formation of advisory commissions or promotion projects. Others have involved more general economic development goals, ranging from permit streamlining to sales tax exemptions for certain business purposes.

Potential Impact: In general, efforts to improve the climate for film and video production could benefit San Francisco, as long as they do not adversely affect the City's sales tax or other revenue.

Status: Support State economic development proposals that relate to film and video production and proposals that relate to film and video production and propose inclusion of film and video concerns where appropriate.

VIII. FIRE

Maintenance of Funding for Past and Current Mandates

Background: In the past, the State has eliminated the mandates that specific types of firefighter clothing and equipment must be used, and thus eliminated the State's obligation to reimburse fire departments for the use of these materials. Nevertheless, the City must continue to provide such clothing and equipment, because of changes in the market; in safety procedures; and/or in labor agreements that resulted from the adoption of the mandates in the first place. In addition, State officials may seek to eliminate the funding for further fire-related mandates.

Potential Impact: Up to \$1 million or more in local funds.

Status: Support efforts to maintain and increase reimbursement for expenditures related to mandates such as those pertaining to firefighter clothing and equipment.

IX. HEALTH

The Department of Health's Legislative Plan is attached as Addendum 1, for detailed review. Listed below is a summary of the legislative issues requiring ongoing monitoring and advocacy efforts:

- 1) **Children and Youth** -- Support efforts to expand access to health services.
- 2) **Emergency Medical Services Agency** -- Support enhancement of emergency medical services.
- 3) **Emergency Services/Trauma** -- Support funding of emergency and trauma care systems.
- 4) **HIV/AIDS** -- Support improvements in HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs and oppose adverse legislative action.
- 5) **Health Care Facilities** -- Support legislative and budget actions for hospital compliance with seismic safety standards (SB 1953).
- 6) **Health Insurance Expansion** -- Support expansion of health care coverage to uninsured California residents.
- 7) **Healthy Families Program (HFP) and Medi-Cal for Children** -- Support increased health insurance coverage under these programs.
- 8) **Immigrant Access to Health Care** -- Support continued eligibility of undocumented residents and oppose efforts to limit or deny health care service for undocumented residents.
- 9) **Immunizations** -- Support immunization programs.
- 10) **Incarcerated** -- Support efforts to expand access to health care.
- 11) **Lead Poisoning Prevention and Intervention** -- Oppose preemption of local lead abatement laws.
- 12) **Long-Term Care** -- Monitor efforts to impact long-term care and skilled nursing facilities.
- 13) **Managed Care Reform** -- Monitor efforts to reform managed care.
- 14) **Marijuana for Medicinal Purposes** -- Support efforts to implement Proposition 215.
- 15) **Medi-Cal Funding and Program Change** -- Support increase in Medi-Cal coverage and reimbursement rates.
- 16) **Mental Health** -- Support efforts to expand mental health services and oppose efforts to restrict delivery of services.
- 17) **Multicultural Health** -- Support efforts to reduce disparities in health care access and to target under-served populations.
- 18) **Pharmacies** -- Support efforts to allow public hospitals to contract with private pharmacies to provide preferentially-priced medications.
- 19) **Prevention** -- Support legislation that addresses prevention of various health risks.
- 20) **Proposition 10** -- Monitor the use of Proposition 10 funds for health promotion and access to health care programs for children, and oppose reduction in use for health promotion.
- 21) **Public Health Infrastructure** -- Support efforts to improve infrastructure for public hospitals and health systems.
- 22) **Realignment** -- Monitor efforts to modify current realignment funding system.
- 23) **State Budget** -- Monitor budget issues that impact the Department's provision of health care.
- 24) **Substance Abuse** -- Support increased funding of Proposition 36 and an allocation formula based on need.
- 25) **Tobacco Settlement** -- Ensure that these revenues are dedicated to the State's public health care safety net.
- 26) **Uninsured** -- Support increased funding of indigent health care at the local level.
- 27) **Women's Health** -- Support increased access to health care for women.
- 28) **Other Health Issues** -- Support efforts to recruit, train and retain individuals for employment in the health care field.

X. HUMAN SERVICES

The Department of Human Service's Legislative Plan is attached as Addendum 2, for detailed review. Listed below is a summary of the legislative issues requiring ongoing monitoring and advocacy efforts:

- 1) **Adult Services** -- Support legislation that facilitates the provision of high quality and effective services for both In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and Adult Protective Services (APS).
- 2) **CalWORKS** -- Support county flexibility in all areas of CalWORKs program administration. Also, support legislation that expands employment opportunities and supportive services such as childcare, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and transportation.
- 3) **Child Care** -- Support increases in childcare capacity for low income working families, efforts to streamline the childcare system, and full funding of all stages of CalWORKs childcare.
- 4) **Family and Children's Services** -- Support decreasing the number of children entering foster care and shortening the length of stay in foster care.
- 5) **Food Stamps/Supplemental Security Income (SSI)** -- Support extension of eligibility for the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) and the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) on a permanent basis.
- 6) **Housing Assistance** -- Support efforts to alleviate San Francisco's shortage of affordable housing.
- 7) **Medi-Cal** -- Support the simplification of the Medi-Cal Program and expansion of eligibility to needy families and individuals.
- 8) **Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)** -- Support a statewide EITC for low-income workers.

XI. JUVENILE PROBATION

State Monies for Correction Facilities

Background: Expansion of youth-related correctional facilities is a critical need. Pursue State funds for expansion of facilities serving youth, including boot camps as well as monies for restoration of the Youth Guidance Center.

Potential Impact: Improved facilities and outcomes for youth offenders.

Status: Monitor and advocate for state funding to improve youth-related facilities.

XII. LIBRARY

1) Public Library Fund (PLF)

Background: The Public Library Fund (PLF) provides the only direct state support for public libraries. It was initiated in the early 1980's in response to impacts of Proposition 13 and has never been fully funded. Currently, the San Francisco Public Library receives about \$1.3 million from this fund annually. The Governor's proposed 2001/2002 budget includes a \$2 million COLA for this program. This would mean about \$48,000 in additional funding for the San Francisco Public Library.

Potential Impact: The California Library Association has requested full funding of the PLF, a \$17.8 million augmentation for the 2001/2002 Governor's budget. This would mean about \$450,000 in additional funding for the San Francisco Public Library.

Status: Support augmentation requests for the Public Library Fund.

2) Regulations for Proposition 14

Background: The Office of Library Construction of the California State Library is formulating regulations that will be used to manage the distribution of the \$350 million in state-wide library construction bond funds that were approved by the voters in March 2000. The regulations will be approved by the Library Bond Act Board. It is anticipated that the rule-making process should be completed by early in 2002. These funds will be distributed competitively on a state-wide basis.

Potential Impact: The development of these regulations may impact the competitiveness of San Francisco's project applications. Adverse regulations may limit the number and scope of branch renovation projects.

Status: Monitor the regulation process for this state source of library construction funds.

3) Internet Filtering

Background: In December 2000, Federal legislation was passed that required that all public and school libraries that are receiving telecommunication subsidies (E-rate) and Library Services and Technology Act grant funds (LSTA) to filter Internet access on all public computers. This legislation takes effect in April and may impact funding in the 2001/2002 fiscal year. The San Francisco Public Library has provided and continues to provide unfiltered access to the Internet. Similar legislation is introduced annually at the State level as well.

Potential Impact: The San Francisco Public Library has received the E-rate discount for various telecommunications services related to Internet provision. The Library projects that it would lose \$100,000 - \$125,000 annually without this subsidy. On the State level, compliance with filtering is usually tied to eligibility for PLF funds.

Status: Oppose legislation that requires implementation of filtering for public access and staff computers.

4) Library of California Funding

Background: Regional library systems are being created from existing public library cooperative systems; and San Francisco Public Library, one of the state's resource libraries, plans an important role in sharing of its specialized collections. Funds for this program are distributed by the California State Library. The California State Library requested a \$14.3 million augmentation for this program; and a \$3.2 million augmentation was included in the Governor's proposed 2001/2002 budget.

Potential Impact: Because of the specialized nature of the collection of the San Francisco Public Library, participation in Library of California programs could bring additional revenue to the Library.

Status: Support statewide augmentation to the Library of California program.

5) Other State and Federal Legislation

Background: The California Library Association (CLA) sponsoring and monitoring all types of legislation that impacts the San Francisco Public Library. The Library is an institutional member of CLA. Many library funding and service initiatives have been sponsored by CLA recently, including increases to PLF and Proposition 14, the Library Bond Act of 2000. As an institutional member, San Francisco Public Library receives constant updates on status of various library bills in Sacramento. The Acting City Librarian is a member of the CLA Legislative Committee.

Potential Impact: Many bills are introduced during the session that may impact San Francisco.

Status: Monitor bills followed by the California Library Association.

XIII. MAYOR'S OFFICE

1) Energy

Background: In 1996, the Legislature passed AB1890 that deregulated the electric industry beginning in 1998. This move was made in part because California rates were higher than other states and many believed that a competitive marketplace would decrease these rates. The legislation allows consumers to purchase electricity from a third party energy provider, as well as from an existing utility. A system was created to transition California to a competition marketplace for electricity. Due to a number of issues faced by Californians and utilities in the marketplace, many power users are suffering from a sharp increase in the price paid for energy.

Potential Impact: The increased cost for energy threatens current and future funding used to provide critical public services to the residents of San Francisco

Status: Advocate for legislation that will minimize negative financial impacts on local governments, increase statewide generation including alternative sources, enhance public power options for local governments, increase conservation, and improve notification process of power outages.

2) Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund (ERAF)

Background: In 1992, the state modified the formulas for allocating property taxes, annually shifting property taxes from cities, counties, and special districts to schools. In 2000-2001 approximately \$4.2 billion of property tax statewide were subject to this shift. About 76% of this amount is attributable to counties.

Potential Impact: On-going loss of property tax which is the largest source of funding for local services.

Status: Support permanent, long-term solutions for local government financing, specifically supporting equitable formulas for redistributing property taxes revenues diverted to ERAF.

3) Trial Courts

Background: In 1997, AB233 (Chp. 850) shifted primary fiscal responsibility for support of the trial courts from the counties to the state. As directed by AB 233, the state began paying the costs of trial courts in California's 20 least populated counties, and guaranteed that no county would pay more than 42 percent of total costs associated with trial courts. In 1998, AB 2788 called for the state, beginning in 1999-2000, to "buy out" the next 18 populated counties, as well as pay for 10 percent of trial court costs in the remaining 20 counties. Under this structure, the state would pay approximately 75 percent of statewide trial court costs by 2001-2002.

Potential Impact: Bring financial stability to San Francisco's trial courts and restore a share of the county's discretionary revenue lost to property tax shifts to the state.

Status: Pursue full state funding of the San Francisco's trial courts through state "buy-out".

4) Proposition 36

Background: On November 7, 2000, voters passed Proposition 36, the Substance Abuse and Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (Act). The Act changes state law so that certain non-violent adult offenders who use or possess illegal drugs will receive drug treatment and supervision in the community, rather than being sent to state prison or county jail or supervised in the community without treatment. As a condition of parole or probation, the offender is required to complete a drug treatment program.

Potential Impact: This measure will significantly impact a wide array of San Francisco's agencies and departments to implement.

Status: Advocate for sufficient resources and equitable allocation formulas to optimize the implementation of Proposition 36.

5) Homelessness

Background: Current state law requires counties to be the providers of last resort for relief and support of incompetent, poor, indigent persons, and those incapacitated by age, disease, or accident, when such persons are not supported and relieved by their own means, relatives, friends, or other public or private institutions. To address the problems of homelessness and poverty, comprehensive services must be provided including emergency services, drug treatment, mental health services, supportive housing and employment services. To improve the effectiveness of service, homelessness must be addressed from a regional approach. Homelessness and poverty affects every city in the Bay Area and therefore requires regional solutions.

Status: Initiate discussion of regional approaches to homelessness and poverty with state representatives.

6) Affordable Housing

Background: San Francisco continues to face an overwhelming shortage of affordable housing. The lack of affordable housing negatively impacts seniors, people with disabilities, low-income working families, and families moving from welfare to work. San Francisco must find ways to maximize housing opportunities for low-income households and individuals through construction, preservation, rehabilitation and acquisition of affordable housing.

Potential Impact: Shortage of affordable housing threatens the health and safety of San Francisco's low-income households.

Status: Support legislative and budgetary solutions allowing the San Francisco to develop maximum affordable housing.

7) Internet Tax Policy

Background: The Internet and its associated "e-commerce" activities have evolved at a rapid pace, raising many important issues. A key issue for consideration is Internet tax policy, specifically how to allow the Internet to continue to evolve and develop while ensuring tax fairness and considering its potential impact on state and local government tax bases. Moratoria at the federal level and in California have temporarily frozen tax action to facilitate resolution of these issues.

Potential Impact: Significant losses of sale and use tax revenues.

Status: Monitor Internet-related tax issues related to the sales and use tax, including the collection of taxes on out-of-state sales and the conversion of tangible taxable goods into nontaxable "digitized" intangible forms.

XIV. MUNICIPAL RAILWAY

1) Sales Tax Extension

Background: Support initiatives to extend transportation sales taxes by a majority vote rather than the traditional two-thirds vote. The failure of SCA 3 negatively impacts the extension of San Francisco's half-cent transportation sales tax, a critical funding source for Muni's long-term capital program and paratransit operations. In addition to the sales tax extensions, there are statewide efforts to obtain ongoing State funding in areas such as operations and rail maintenance and rehabilitation. Support for all of these initiatives is a priority for Muni, as well as any proposals for increases in Federal transportation funding that might emerge in discussions of the reauthorization of TEA-21, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

Status: Support statewide efforts to extend the transportation sales tax and to obtain ongoing transportation funding.

2) Funding

Background and Potential Impact: Protect against actions that might decrease funding levels for Muni's transit programs. Specifically, work to defeat any legislative or budgetary actions at the Federal, State and regional levels that might decrease funding for transit operators such as Muni. One example is the 1999 attempt by Senator Richard Shelby of Alabama to place a cap on transit expenditures, in violation of the letter and spirit of TEA-21. This action would have disproportionately affected transit funding in California in general and Muni in particular.

Status: Oppose legislative or budgetary actions to reduce funding for transit operators.

3) Sales/Leaseback and Lease/Leaseback

Background: Current law allows transit agencies to obtain favorable tax depreciation status on certain capital assets (i.e. rail cars) that can be leased or sold to the private sector and then leased back to the transit agency. These transactions in effect transfer the tax depreciation benefits to the private sector in exchange for a payment to the transit agency. The State Board of Equalization, however, has ruled that these transit agencies must pay sales tax on these transactions. In practice, this is a double tax since sales tax is already paid on the original purchase of the assets and it eliminates the benefit of these transactions.

Potential Impact: Muni would garner a significant amount of revenue from such transactions.

Status: Support efforts to pass a bill to exempt leaseback arrangements from sales tax.

XV. PARKING AND TRAFFIC

Effective Enforcement of Parking Laws

Background: Local parking control efforts are governed by both state and local laws. The most effective operation of the Parking and Traffic Department, and the City's collection of the associated revenues, requires monitoring of state laws to ensure that they do not hinder the City's abilities in this regard.

Potential Impact: Effects on the flow of traffic within the City; the level of City revenues; and a variety of issues relating to the public's ability to move around the City.

Status: Ensure that the Department's efforts to enforce parking laws and issue citations can be performed most effectively.

XVI. PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Monitor Key Land Use, Planning, Zoning Legislation

Background: State legislation related to land use, planning and zoning, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), transportation and congestion management plans, and base closure, can have significant effects on the operations of the Planning Department. Such legislative proposals should be monitored to prevent new costs to the City or to businesses that must obtain planning review, or to prevent inappropriate land use controls for San Francisco neighborhoods, or to support proposals that could streamline processing or improve planning in the City.

Potential Impact: May impact the City's ability to perform its land use planning and related functions.

Status: Ensure that the Department's operation is not adversely affected by State legislation.

XVII. POLICE

1) Gun Control

Background: State law preempts Local control of the availability of guns. Thus, efforts to control the violence caused by the proliferation of guns must involve either State or federal legislation.

Potential Impact: Improved quality of life and minimization of violence.

Status: Support efforts to improve control of the availability of guns at either the State or local levels.

2) Criminal Justice Funds

Background: The State Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) monitors the distribution of criminal justice funds to local jurisdictions, including monies appropriated from the federal Crime bill. In the past, OCJP allocations have not always allowed for the use of these monies in innovative programs, ranging from drug education efforts to officers on school campuses.

Potential Impact: Increased funding as well as improved police effectiveness.

Status: Seek to maximize San Francisco's receipt of State criminal justice funds, and to allow their use in innovative programs.

XVIII. PORT

1) Public Access Projects

- Support budget proposals for FY 01/02 to fund State Coastal Conservancy's grant programs for public access and enhancement projects in San Francisco Bay.
- Support funding of State Coastal Conservancy's San Francisco Bay Conservation Program.

2) Transportation Facilities

- Support legislation that will provide new funding opportunities for the next phase of planning and construction of the Port's ferry terminals. Support funding of Bay Area Council Transit.
- Support proposals to fund marine terminal improvements.
- Support legislation that will create new disposal sites or methods for reuse of dredged materials.

XIX. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

1) Energy

Background and Potential Impact: As California Legislature is working to address the current energy crisis, the SFPUC must monitor and act upon legislation that will affect its operations at Hetch Hetchy, including these issues:

- **Reliability:** SFPUC is actively advocating for improvements in the reliability of electric supply in this area. Legislation addressing how new transmission and distribution facilities are built and paid for could substantially affect the City's interests.
- **Funding:** Significant funding for conservation and new generation will be available through legislative action. SFPUC could greatly benefit from these funding sources but due to our unique functions as a publicly owned utility we will need to have special language included so that we are eligible for these funds.

Status: Monitor, support or oppose legislation relative to the energy restructuring changes and the SFPUC's power generating assets at Hetch Hetchy.

2) Water transfers

Background and Potential Impact: Due to SFPUC's high quality water it is important to protect our water supply from changes to state law governing water transfers if the changes would have a diminution on the protection of the regional water suppliers water quality protections. Additionally, SFPUC needs to protect its investment in the system infrastructure. SFPUC must ensure that any changes to state law with regard to water wheeling protect the regional water supplier from cost shifting.

Status: Monitor, support or oppose legislation relative to water transfers.

3) Capital Facility Fees

Background and Potential Impact: The City of San Francisco has litigation pending in the courts that challenge SFPUC's rates to educational institutions. Last session, legislation was pursued that would have clarified the fees and changes that are allowable. That legislation unfortunately failed and the law has been left ambiguous. A clarification to the law is important so that the courts can rule on allowable rate charges. If this issue is not clarified, it could be financially devastating for the SFPUC.

Status: Monitor, support or oppose legislation relative to Capital Facility Fees.

4) CALFED Funding and Governance

Background and Potential Impact: Both the federal and state legislative bodies will be looking to fund CALFED this year. CALFED is a federal and state entity that will be funding the long-term water solutions in California. Since the water source of the City of San Francisco, Hetch Hetchy, is part of the CALFED solution area, SFPUC has been active in the CALFED negotiations. There will likely be several state bills this year that will address CALFED funding and its governance structure. SFPUC will need to closely monitor the legislation to ensure that San Francisco benefits from the outcome.

Status: Monitor, support or oppose legislation relative to CALFED funding and governance.

XX. RECREATION AND PARKS

Background: Support legislation that provides for the following goals:

- Promoting youth services
- Restoration of open space and natural areas
- Renovation of recreational facilities
- Programs that promote public safety in parks.

Status: Ongoing monitoring and advocacy efforts.

XXI. REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY

1) Protect Agency Programs

Background: State law governs redevelopment agencies. In the past, the State has attempted to balance its budget by claiming unspent Redevelopment agency monies or other restrictions.

Potential Impact: The current property tax increment is up to \$20 million, and could be at risk.

Status: Work with State redevelopment agencies to protect funds for San Francisco programs.

2) Enterprise Zones

Background: In 1994, the Legislature proposed a comprehensive review and potential restructuring of the State's enterprise zone program. Such efforts could adversely affect San Francisco's current enterprise zone.

Potential Impact: Adverse effects on the businesses in the San Francisco enterprise zone, or potential beneficial effects from the success of the zone.

Status: Support legislation to protect and enhance San Francisco's enterprise zone program.

XXII. SUPERIOR AND MUNICIPAL COURTS

1) Trial Court Funding and Restructuring

Background: In 1994, various restructuring proposals gave the counties greater health and welfare program and fiscal responsibilities in exchange for greater levels of trial court funding.

Potential Impact: Adverse or positive effects on City programs and finances.

Status: Monitor and advocacy for efforts to further restructure county services and reassign trial court funding responsibilities to the State.

2) Allocation of Court Costs

Background: State law allocates court costs among the parties to the litigation as well as the courts. State law also provides for the waiving of costs for indigent litigants.

Potential Impact: Improved court revenue receipts.

Status: Support efforts to maintain allocation of court costs so that litigants with the ability to pay continue to bear the costs of their litigation and to improve rules regarding identification of eligible indigents.

XXIII. TRANSPORTATION

Protect Transportation-Specific Funding

Background: Current transportation revenue allocations take into account a variety of San Francisco's unique factors, including its dual status as both a city and county; or its dense network of locally maintained roads, relatively high population, and reliance on public transportation. San Francisco also shares the concerns of other transportation districts in its difficulty in meeting maintenance-of-effort requirements on the gas tax. These factors and interests are reflected in the existing allocations of the gas tax, and the current moratorium on the gas tax maintenance of effort provisions.

Potential Impact: Potentially significant effects on San Francisco's transportation programs.

Status: Monitor proposed changes in transportation funding to ensure San Francisco's interests are protected in Statewide transportation allocations.

ADDENDUM 1

Department of Public Health 2001 State Legislative Plan



2001 State Legislative Plan

In accordance with the vision and mission statements of the Department of Public Health, this Legislative Plan is intended to serve as a guide to the City's policy positions on legislative, regulatory and budget issues which impact the Department and the health of San Franciscans. To implement its Legislative Plan, the Department works in collaboration with the Mayor's office, other City departments, the City's State lobbyist, community partners in both the public and private sectors and in coalition with issue-based and industry-based advocacy groups.

1. **Children and Youth**

- a. Support legislation that would expand school health services and Family PACT to include preventive health care services.
- b. Support legislation that would expand and/or improve access to health services for children and youth.
- c. Support creation of a pilot program to provide specific health and social care services for adolescents enrolled in managed care.

2. **Emergency Medical Services Agency**

- a. Support legislation that would provide funding for State and local health departments to address public health threats from the use of chemical, biological and radioactive agents by terrorists.
- b. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that clarify the regulation of inter-facility emergency medical transportation and ensure coordination with local emergency medical services agencies.
- c. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that support local oversight over diversion policies and policy coordination with local emergency medical services agencies.
- d. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that will enhance the provision of emergency medical services and ensure coordination with local emergency medical services agencies.

3. **Emergency Services/Trauma**

- a. Support legislation that would provide funding for public hospitals providing emergency and/or trauma care.
- b. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that will enhance the provision of emergency and/or trauma services and increase funding for the various components of emergency and trauma care and systems, including operations, equipment, infrastructure, ancillary services, public health interventions, and physician reimbursements.

4. **HIV/AIDS**

- a. Support expansion of Medi-Cal eligibility to include HIV infected individuals.

- b. Pursue legislation that would authorize pharmacy-based syringe sales without a prescription.
- c. Support legislation that promotes voluntary HIV testing with informed consent, effective HIV prevention, and access to health care and treatment for persons living with HIV.
- d. Oppose legislation that would create a system of HIV reporting by name.
- e. Oppose legislation that would impose mandatory testing for HIV.
- f. Oppose legislation that could have an adverse effect on HIV prevention and treatment programs.

5. Health Care Facilities

- a. Support legislation to provide funding or financing for costs associated with compliance with hospital seismic safety standards (SB 1953).
- b. Pursue legislation or other authority to facilitate regional planning for compliance with SB 1953 seismic safety requirements.

6. Health Insurance Expansion

- a. Support legislation that expands health care coverage to uninsured California residents, pursuant to San Francisco's goal of providing universal health coverage.
- b. Support legislation that expands purchasing pools for small employers.

7. Healthy Families Program and Medi-Cal for Children

- a. Support legislation that would increase access to health insurance coverage under the Governor's proposal to provide Healthy Families coverage for parents of children enrolled in the Healthy Families or Medi-Cal for Children programs, including legislation that would:
 - i. cover parents up to 250% of the federal poverty level, to match the income guidelines for children enrolled in the program;
 - ii. establish a seamless system of coverage between Medi-Cal and Healthy Families to ensure that all members of a family have equal access to the same provider networks and benefits;
 - iii. reduce the monthly premium and co-payment maximums for parents and establish a premium scale that is based on income level and household size;
 - iv. provider discounts for parents who choose the community provider plan that are proportional to the discounts they receive for enrolling their children in the community provider plan;
 - v. provide for targeted outreach at the local level;
 - vi. extend coverage to all legal immigrant parents; and
 - vii. ensure that a broad definition of parent includes non-biological parents who are primary caregivers.
- b. Support expansion of eligibility to include parents of eligible children; families with income levels between 250% and 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- c. Support continued expansion of eligibility to include:

- i. legal permanent residents who arrived after the passage of federal welfare reform (8/22/96) beyond the 1999-2000 fiscal year; and
 - ii. undocumented residents (State-only funds).
- d. Support legislation to simplify and improve consistency and coordination of the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal for children programs.

8. Immigrant Access to Health Care

- a. Support legislation to ensure continued eligibility of undocumented residents for:
 - i. community mental health services;
 - ii. long-term care;
 - iii. California Children's Services; and
 - iv. other health care and supportive services.
- b. Support and/or sponsor elimination of the cap on State funds that can be used to provide skilled nursing care to undocumented residents.
- c. Support clarification and broadening of the State's definition of emergency services to restore funding for follow-up care provided to undocumented immigrants in conjunction with emergency services.
- d. Support multi-cultural health legislation.
- e. Oppose legislation that would attempt to limit or deny health care services for undocumented residents.

9. Immunizations

- a. Support legislation that would advance the creation of a regional and/or statewide immunization registry.
- b. Support legislation that would increase access to and provide funding for adult immunizations.
- c. Monitor legislation relating to immunization and adopt positions as appropriate to ensure that the public health benefits to San Franciscans are maximized.
- d. Pursue new State funding to support the infrastructure for core immunization programs.

10. Incarcerated

- a. Support legislation that would expand access to health care for the incarcerated and increase funding for forensic health.
- b. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that remove barriers and increase access to care, housing and services for parolees.

11. Lead Poisoning Prevention and Intervention

- a. Oppose unless amended legislation that would preempt local San Francisco lead abatement laws or impose insufficiently-funded new requirements.

12. Long-Term Care

- a. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that are consistent with the City and County's Long-Term Care Integration Pilot Project.

- b. Monitor and adopt positions as appropriate on legislation that would impact the provision and/or reimbursement of services in skilled nursing facilities.
- 13. **Managed Care Reform**
 - a. Monitor legislation regarding reform of managed care and quality of care.
 - b. Monitor legislation and/or regulation and adopt positions as appropriate relating to the establishment of the State Department of Managed Care.
 - c. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate on legislation that would impact the Department as a provider of care within the larger managed care setting.
- 14. **Marijuana for Medicinal Purposes**
 - a. Support legislation to authorize and support local efforts to implement Proposition 215 for distribution of marijuana for medicinal purposes.
- 15. **Medi-Cal Funding and Program Change**
 - a. Sponsor legislation to expand the number of county-organized health systems and the number of Medi-Cal beneficiaries who can be enrolled in County Organized Health Systems in California.
 - b. Pursue legislation or budget action to revise the distinct part nursing facility rate-setting methodology.
 - c. Support legislation to ensure fiscal stability for the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program.
 - d. Support legislation that will maintain cost-based reimbursement for federally qualified health centers.
 - e. Support legislation that would remove barriers and increase access of disabled individuals in returning to work.
 - f. Support legislation that would increase Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for persons with organic brain disorders;
 - g. Support legislation to provide presumptive eligibility and one-year continuous coverage for adults.
 - h. Support legislation to increase Medi-Cal reimbursement rates.
 - i. Support legislation to implement risk-adjusted capitation rates for Medi-Cal managed care programs.
 - j. Support legislation that would expand Medi-Cal eligibility and/or simplify the application process.
 - k. Support legislation and/or regulation that place eligibility for Medi-Cal and payment of Medi-Cal services within the same State agency (either Health Services or Social Services).
 - l. Support legislation that ensures the preservation of Local Initiatives.
 - m. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate to ensure that State-implemented managed care achieves its goal of improving access for the Medi-Cal population and does not adversely affect revenues.

16. Mental Health

- a. Support legislation to amend existing law regarding protection of quality assurance mental health documents from discovery, to clarify that non-Medi-Cal records are also protected.
- b. Support legislation that would provide additional funding for delivery of mental health services to indigent and low-income individuals based on local needs.
- c. Support legislation that would establish a respite care pilot project in San Francisco.
- d. Support legislation that would establish a pilot project for school-based mental health services in San Francisco.
- e. Oppose legislation that would adversely impact delivery of mental health services and restrict availability of funding for this purpose.

17. Multicultural Health

- a. Support legislation that would reduce disparities in health care access and services.
- b. Support legislation that would increase resources to target health care services to underserved populations.

18. Pharmacies

- a. Support legislation that would allow public hospitals and clinics to contract with private pharmacies to provide preferentially-priced medications to individuals receiving care from those facilities.

19. Prevention

- a. Support legislation that addresses prevention in the following areas:
 - i. environmental, including air, soil and water quality, toxics and transportation;
 - ii. childhood development and education;
 - iii. behavioral risk factor reduction, including smoking cessation, exercise, and nutrition;
 - iv. violence and injury prevention, such as controls for firearms and pedestrian safety;
 - v. occupational health, including occupational health advocacy and prevention programs for garment workers, sex workers and day laborers; and
 - vi. socio-economic/social equality issues.

20. Proposition 10

- a. Monitor and adopt positions as appropriate on legislation to amend or clarify Proposition 10 to ensure that funds may be utilized for health promotion and access to health care programs for children.
- b. Develop alternative revenue sources to backfill reductions in Proposition 99 (tobacco tax) revenues resulting from Proposition 10 implementation.

- c. Oppose legislation that would repeal Proposition 10 or that would reduce the funding for health promotion.

21. Public Health Infrastructure

- a. Support legislation that would increase funding and program support for core public health activities and, in the event of increased funding, create a more equitable allocation formula.
- b. Support legislation that would provide funding for public hospitals and health systems to support infrastructure enhancements, such as information systems, state of the art medical technology, and quality management data systems.

22. Realignment

- a. Monitor and adopt positions as appropriate on legislation that will modify the current realignment funding system and ensure adequate, consistent and flexible funding for indigent health and mental health services.
- b. Monitor and adopt positions as appropriate to ensure that any county responsibility for enhanced health data collection is adequately funded.
- c. Support legislation to maintain the General Fund backfill for Vehicle License Fee reductions.

23. State Budget

- a. Monitor and adopt positions as appropriate on State Budget issues that affect the Department's work to address the health care and prevention needs of San Franciscans, including support of the following:
 - i. Increased public health funding for core infrastructure activities, such as communicable disease control and disease surveillance;
 - ii. Increased funding for distinct part nursing facilities;
 - iii. Increased funding for Proposition 36;
 - iv. Continuation of funding for AB 34/AB 2034 programs for homeless mentally ill;
 - v. Transfer of financial responsibility for Murphy Conservatorships from counties to the State;
 - vi. Enhanced Medi-Cal reimbursement rate for persons with organic brain disorders;
 - vii. Funding and/or financing for costs associated with compliance with hospital seismic safety standards;
 - viii. Funding for emergency room and/or trauma services;
 - ix. Funding for residential community-based services as an alternative to institutional care;
 - x. Increased funding for children and youth services and programs;
 - xi. Funding for State and local health departments to address public health threats from the use of chemical, biological and radioactive agents by terrorists;

- xii. Allocation of sufficient State funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, to ensure addition of new drugs to the formulary and no waiting lists for recipients;
- xiii. Elimination of the cap on skilled nursing care for undocumented residents;
- xiv. Restoration of funding for follow-up care provided to undocumented immigrants in conjunction with emergency services;
- xv. Adequate funding for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program;
- xvi. Increased base rates for Medi-Cal inpatient reimbursement;
- xvii. Increased outpatient reimbursement rates, to ensure, at a minimum, that actual Medi-Cal outpatient costs are reasonably reimbursed;
- xviii. Reduction of the State administrative fee for the Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program;
- xix. Maintenance of existing reimbursement rates for skilled nursing facilities;
- xx. Increased funding for prevention programs;
- xxi. Development of alternative revenue sources to recover declines in Proposition 99 subsidies targeted to public health services and care for low-income children and other uninsured persons;
- xxii. Ensure that Proposition 99 funds continue to be directed to local health systems for indigent medical care;
- xxiii. Preservation of base- and growth-realignment funds for local governments in support of essential health care services, and protection of the General Fund backfill for the Vehicle License Fee reductions;
- xxiv. Increased funds to ensure the needs of San Francisco residents for inpatient and outpatient mental health care are met;
- xxv. Increased substance abuse funding and allocations based on need to assist San Francisco's Treatment on Demand efforts;
- xxvi. Allocation of sufficient funding for mental health and substance abuse services for CalWORKs recipients;
- xxvii. Increased funding for early detection and treatment of breast cancer services for low-income women;
- xxviii. Continued funding to ensure eligibility and access for all California residents – regardless of immigration status – for health care programs and services;
- xxix. Increased funding for the California Statewide Supportive Housing Initiative; and
- xxx. Funding for the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction grant.

24. Substance Abuse

- a. Support legislation relating to Proposition 36 that will increase funding and establish an allocation formula based upon need.
- b. Support legislation that would increase access to sterile syringes by legalizing the sale of syringes without a prescription and/or decriminalizing syringe possession.
- c. Support legislation that would create a dual diagnosis treatment program.
- d. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate in accordance with San Francisco's Treatment on Demand efforts.

- e. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that support local drug courts.

25. Tobacco Settlement

- a. Ensure that State tobacco settlement revenues are used to strengthen California's public health care safety net and public health programs, and are not used to justify cuts in realignment or other funding resources.

26. Uninsured

- a. Pursue a State program to fund indigent health care at the local level.

27. Women's Health

- a. Support legislation that removes barriers and increases access to health care for women.

28. Other Health Issues

- a. Support legislation that would create a program to recruit, train and retain individuals for employment in the health care field.
- b. Support legislation that increases opportunities for health promotion and services.
- c. Support legislation to ensure new programs and mandates include sufficient funding.
- d. Monitor legislation and adopt positions as appropriate that support health promotion and services. For example, relevant legislation may be related to:
 - i. environmental health;
 - ii. food safety;
 - iii. injury prevention;
 - iv. occupational safety;
 - v. epidemiology and disease control;
 - vi. STD prevention and control;
 - vii. substance abuse prevention and services;
 - viii. tobacco use prevention and services;
 - ix. TB control;
 - x. children and youth;
 - xi. access to health care and prescription drugs;
 - xii. long-term care;
 - xiii. supportive services;
 - xiv. emergency medical services;
 - xv. health care for the homeless; and
 - xvi. domestic violence.

ADDENDUM 2

Department of Human Services 2001 State Legislative Plan



2000-2001 STATE LEGISLATIVE PLAN SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (DHS)

CONTACT: Daniel C. Kim
415-557-5661
Dan_Kim@ci.sf.ca.us

ADULT SERVICES

The Department of Human Services supports legislation that facilitates the provision of high quality and effective services for both In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) and Adult Protective Services (APS).

Specific Initiatives

- 1) *Support legislation to simplify the application process and to expand eligibility for the Special Circumstances Program.*

The Special Circumstances Program provides limited vendor payments and cash benefits to Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) and Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) recipients for certain emergencies related to housing and other basic needs. Legislation that simplifies the application process and raises the asset limit would help increase the number of individuals provided assistance through this program.

CALWORKS

The Department of Human Services supports legislation that reaffirms county flexibility in all areas of CalWORKs program administration. In addition, DHS supports legislation that expands employment opportunities and supportive services such as childcare, mental health treatment, substance abuse treatment, and transportation.

- 1) *Sponsor legislation to secure \$200,000 in state funding for services in the field of technology workforce development.*

In efforts to promote our efforts in job placement and career advancement for low-income San Franciscans, DHS supports efforts to develop vocational training programs in the area of digital media and other high-tech fields.

- 2) *Support legislation that broadens the definition of community service to include CalWORKs participants receiving subsidized employment and participating in either the U.S. Department of Labor (DoL) Welfare-to-Work program or in work experience as defined under TANF regulations*

Current state law prohibits CalWORKs participants with subsidized employment from receiving aid for more than 18/24 months. Consequently, many participants must abandon their subsidized employment and join community service in order to maintain their CalWORKs aid. Broadening the

definition of community service would help promote permanent employment for participants and thereby decrease CalWORKs caseloads and reduce the state General Fund cost associated with aid payments.

- 3) *Support legislation to allow study hours to count as a work participation activity for CalWORKs recipients enrolled in Self-Initiated Programs (SIPs).*

Under current law, CalWORKs participants who are enrolled in post-secondary education as part of a Self-Initiated Program (SIP) cannot count their study time towards their work participation requirement. As a result, a CalWORKs participant who attends school must perform another work activity to meet the 52 hour weekly requirement, in addition to attending school full-time, studying, and raising children. These onerous requirements make it difficult for CalWORKs participants to achieve success in school and progress to self-sufficiency.

- 4) *Support legislation to exempt one vehicle from the CalWORKs eligibility determination calculation.*

Under current law, a CalWORKs recipient who owns a car valued at more than \$4,650 is ineligible for assistance. It is reasonable to assume that a car valued under this amount may not be in good working order. In order for CalWORKs families to become self-sufficient, they must have a dependable automobile to take them to and from work and to take their children to and from child care centers. Exempting one vehicle from the eligibility determination would assist CalWORKs participants in reaching and maintaining economic independence for their families.

CHILD CARE

San Francisco supports legislation that increases childcare capacity for low income working families either by expanding the number of childcare facilities or by increasing the number of trained and qualified childcare providers. DHS also supports initiatives that streamline the subsidized childcare system to facilitate access to childcare for all low-income families. In addition, DHS supports initiatives to fully fund all stages of CalWORKs childcare.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

DHS supports legislation that decreases the number of children entering foster care and shortens the length of stay in foster care by: (1) increasing prevention and early intervention services; (2) redesigning front-end child welfare services to facilitate permanency for children; and (3) expanding and increasing coordination of community-based collaborations that support and strengthen families.

Specific Initiatives:

- 1) *Sponsor a budget request to secure \$1.0 million in state funding to support initial year operations for the San Francisco Family Assessment Center.*

The Family Assessment Center, due to begin operation in July 2001, will be a City and County of San Francisco facility staffed by City employees from the Department of Human Services and the Department of Public Health. The Center will serve families involved with child protective services (CPS) to allow earlier intervention and to decrease the need for child removal and formal CPS involvement. In cases where the child is removed from the home, the Center will facilitate earlier planning for reunification. The goals of the FAC will be to reduce out of home placements, improve comprehensive service delivery, and provide seamless service delivery to children and families.

- 2) *Support legislation to provide childcare for foster parents, kinship guardians, or parents in the process of reunifying with their children.*
 - 3) *Support legislation to allow a child who is in foster care (AFDC-FC or KinGAP) to continue to receive cash aid until he or she completes high school or vocational training or when he or she attains the age of 20, whichever comes first. The receipt of aid up to age 20 is contingent on the child remaining in school and continuing to reside in foster care (or KinGAP).*
-

FOOD STAMPS/SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)

- 1) *Support legislation to extend eligibility for the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI) and the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) on a permanent basis.*

The CAPI and CFAP Programs provide cash assistance and food stamps for legal immigrants who are ineligible for the federal SSI and federal Food Stamp Programs. Current law expands eligibility for the CFAP and CAPI Programs to one year for legal immigrants who arrived in the US after August, 1996. San Francisco supports continuing eligibility for these programs on a permanent basis for all legal immigrants not eligible for the federal SSI or Federal Food Stamp Programs.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

State support for housing initiatives is desperately needed help to alleviate San Francisco's shortage of affordable housing. The City currently lacks enough units for all families that need low cost housing. Consequently, many families pay too much for housing, and this often results in financial instability for families who must choose between which bills to pay each month. In addition, the high cost of housing in San Francisco often forces low income working families and CalWORKs participants to move out of the City and away from their jobs, which hinders their transition to self-sufficiency.

Specific Housing Initiatives:

- 1) *Support a statewide Housing Bond initiative.*

The need for affordable housing has increased dramatically in California and in San Francisco in particular. The San Francisco Bay Area is one of the eight worst housing markets in the country when comparing the number of low income renters to the number of low income units, and is one of the highest cost housing markets as well. As a result, many families in San Francisco live in overcrowded and unsafe conditions and half of the people in these households are children. In addition, San

Francisco has the largest per capita homeless population in the country and the County does not currently have the resources necessary to provide permanent housing to this entire population.

MEDI-CAL

Over the years, a myriad of eligibility requirements imposed within the Medi-Cal Program by the State have contributed to its complexity, both in terms of administration for county staff and for all applicants who seek health coverage. Simplification of the Medi-Cal program in a number of areas is needed in order to eliminate barriers that prevent people from applying and to extend health coverage to additional potentially eligible persons who are not covered by either Medi-Cal or the Healthy Families Program. *To this end, San Francisco supports all legislation that simplifies the Medi-Cal Program and/or expands eligibility to needy families and individuals.*

OTHER

- 1) *Support legislation establishing a State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for Low Income Workers.*

As public assistance recipients begin to enter the labor market, many will initially be employed lower wage jobs due to a lack of work experience. These individuals, and other low income workers, require all the supports possible to attain self-sufficiency. A state EITC will provide these lower wage workers with additional income to assist them as they progress toward self-sufficiency.

